

Mussorgsky - Complete Songs (1989)

Written by bluesever

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CD1 1 Tell Me, Star, Where Art Thou? 2 Joyous Hour 3 Tell my why, O Maid 4
leaves were sadly rustling 5 I am Rich in Palaces 6 For You, the Words of Love 7 King
Saul 8 Song of the Old Man 9 We Parted Proudly 10 Wind are Howling 11 Night
12 Calistratus 13 Balearic Song 14 Prayer 15 Cast-off Woman 16 Sleep, Son of
Peasants 17 Mignonne CD2 1 Desire 2 Gopak 3 Savishna 4 Seminarist
5 Hebrew song 6 Magpie 7 Seeking Mushrooms 8 Piruchka (The Feast) 9
Street-Urchin 10 he-goat 11 By the River Don 12 Classic 13 Orphan 14
Children's Song 15 With Nursey 16 In the Corner 17 Beetle 18 With the Doll 19
Evening Prayer 20 Hobby-Horse 21 Cat 'Sailor' 22 Eriomushka's Cradle Song 23
Puppet-show 24 Evening Song 25 Forsaken One
CD3

1. Within Four Walls 2. Thine Eyes in the Crowd Ne'er Perceived Me 3. The Useless Day is
Over 4. Ennui 5. Elegy 6. On the River 7. Trepak - Orch National de la Radiodiffusion
Francaise/Georges Tzipine 8. Cradle Song - Orch National de la Radiodiffusion
Francaise/Georges Tzipine 9. Serenade - Orch National de la Radiodiffusion
Francaise/Georges Tzipine 10. The Warrior-Captain - Orch National de la Radiodiffusion
Francaise/Georges Tzipine 11. Cruel Death 12. The Misunderstood One 13. Misfortune 14.
The Spirit of Heaven 15. What Fellow is Fitted for Weaving or Spinning? 16. Trouble 17. A
Vision 18. Master Haughty 19. The Wanderer 20. On the Dnieper 21. Song of
Mephistopheles - Orch National de la Radiodiffusion Francaise/Georges Tzipine
Boris Christoff - Bass (Vocal) ORTF National Orchestra George Tzipine – conductor

Boris Christoff's set of the complete songs of Mussorgsky is one of the greatest monuments to a single composer's greatest body of works, one of the greatest monuments to the art of singing, and one of the greatest monuments to one of the great singers of the twentieth century. The only really comparable achievement is Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau's corpus of recordings of the songs of Schubert. And if Fischer-Dieskau's achievement is larger in scope, it is neither more profound nor more musical than Christoff's. Mussorgsky's songs are as central to his greatness as a composer as Schubert's were to his. In them, he went as deep into humanity and into his art as Schubert did in his songs. Not only the great cycles, The Songs and Dances of Death,

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Sunless, and The Nursery, but also many of the individual songs, are as great as any ever composed. The range is as wide, the aim is as high, and the level of achievement is almost always as great in the best moments of Boris Godunov, and Christoff is there for every moment. All three of his cycles are the best ever made, and every single one of the songs is sung with passionate intelligence and dedicated soulfulness. Songs like "Cruel Death" and "The Puppet Show" have been equaled but never surpassed. And his "Mephistopheles' Song of the Flea" is frighteningly funny. One could argue with some of the accompanists or complain of some of the orchestral arrangements by other composers, but anyone who loves Mussorgsky or the art of singing should by all means get this recording. ---James Leonard, Rovi

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